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THE JAPANESE RED CROSS SOCIETY

By L. L. DOCK

A BOOKLET recently issued by the Japanese Red Cross (*Notice sur les Travaux de la Société Japonaise pendant le guerre Russo-Japonaise*) gives in brief form a very striking account of the wonderful activity of that society during the war with Russia, with a historical outline of the society. It seems that in the civil war of Japan in 1877, a society called *Hakuaisha* was founded at the instigation of four Japanese noblemen, to bring succour and relief to the sufferers, and after Japan had signed the Convention of Geneva in 1886, this society, desirous of continuing its existence, changed its name to that of the Red Cross Society of Japan, and was placed under the direct patronage of the Emperor and Empress and under the triple control of the Ministers of the Empire, of War, and of the Navy. Imperial ordinances define the status and relation to the government of the society with entire clearness, and it receives certain annual contributions from the royal family.

Beside two or three small local wars, the Red Cross has been active in six disasters of national importance and many local ones, but its overwhelming test came with the war with Russia.

A summary of the activities of the society during this war show that it had organized one hundred and forty-eight sanitary squads, one regiment of stretcher-carriers, one dépôt for supplies,—equipped two hospital-ships, provided five thousand individuals of both sexes for the different services, nursed the army hospitals and the marine hospitals, the various hospitals in Corea and Manchuria, as well as the hospital-ships and the evacuation transports belonging to the government, and expended in all, about four million dollars.

It is well known that the Japanese Red Cross trains its nurses according to the highest known standards of three years' thorough practical and theoretical training, and that the Japanese nurses are unsurpassed by those of any country.

The Association of Japanese Ladies, founded in 1887, lent most untiring and effective aid, in maintaining refreshment and resting stations at the railroads, in providing supplies for the hospitals, the wounded, and the expatriated soldiers; in conducting the correspondence of the latter; in looking after the prisoners of war, etc., etc. During the war, these women prepared two hundred and seventy thousand

packages of dressings upon the requisition of the Minister of War. The admirable feature of Red Cross work in Japan, it is well to point out, was, that volunteers were employed in every service where they could be useful, but that *only trained nurses* were assigned to nursing. There was none of the amateur, sentimental exploiting of sick and wounded men by volunteers longing for sensations and glory, that was seen in the South African War.

The little sketch alluded to mentions, with words of affection and respect, the long service given by Mrs. Richardson, an English lady who spent more than a year under the Japanese Red Cross, and also specifies the different services of the American nurses, of a small group of Germans, and of a French lady.

The Japanese Red Cross numbers about one million two hundred and forty-five thousand members. The Association of Japanese Ladies has forty-one local committees, with over ten thousand members.

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF INSTRUCTION FOR NURSES IN HOLLAND *

By MISS VAN LANSCHOT-HUBRECHT

Secretary of the Holland Nurses Association.

I HAVE been asked to report upon the system of practical training given to nurses in Holland and I will begin by a general outline of our nurses' instruction and the conditions under which they work. Municipal and university hospitals, having a minimum of forty beds, were once regarded as the only schools for nurses, but exceptions to this rule are now common.

In general, pupils are not admitted before the age of twenty years; an effort is made to secure applicants who have had a high school education, yet young women are frequently admitted who have only passed through the primary grades. This inconsistency results from the necessity of staffing the wards. Young women of good social standing hesitate to enter a profession so difficult and requiring the most perfect health, and the directors of hospitals are compelled to have recourse to women less well educated.

The hours of duty are, as a rule, from eleven to thirteen, though in some hospitals only ten. Domestic labor, a large part of which ought to be performed by maids, takes up too much of the day. It would be far

* Read at the International Conference on Nursing, Paris, June, 1907.